

*Kenya is the first country to try and protect elephants by text message. Mobile phone sim cards inserted in the collars of elephants automatically send a text when they roam too close to farms, allowing wildlife rangers to drive them off rather than shooting them. This report from Matt McGrath:*

Hungry elephants **pose** big problems for small farmers and villagers in some parts of Kenya raiding for food and **wiping out** homes and livelihoods in the process. Two years ago the Kenyan wildlife service had to **reluctantly** shoot five elephants who continued to raid crops.

In an attempt **to avert** such **drastic measures** the Save the Elephants charity installed a mobile phone sim card in a collar that was placed on a huge bull elephant called Kimani. The conservationists then set up **a virtual fence** using a global positioning system. Each time Kimani came near the fence, a text message was sent to rangers. So far he's been **intercepted** fifteen times.

The project is expensive requiring five full time staff and a standby vehicle but it seems to be working successfully as Kimani hasn't come near a farm for four months. A similar system has now been **implemented** in another part of the country.

One of the biggest benefits of the project is that elephants seem to learn from one another. Tracking and controlling one crop raider can help a whole group change their habits. The elephants can also be tracked using Google earth software. This is also helping prevent **poaching** as the rangers know where to concentrate their resources to best protect the animals.

Matt McGrath, BBC, Environment Reporter

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>pose</b>	cause
<b>wiping out</b>	destroying
<b>reluctantly</b>	with regret and sadness
<b>to avert</b>	to prevent
<b>drastic measures</b>	very serious and destructive actions
<b>a virtual fence</b>	not a real, physical fence, but an automatic system that sends a warning when the elephant gets close to a particular area so it can be stopped from going into that area
<b>intercepted</b>	prevented from going somewhere, here, stopped from going into the danger area
<b>implemented</b>	put into operation
<b>poaching</b>	illegal hunting and killing
<b>to concentrate their resources</b>	to organise and position their staff and equipment

**Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/10/081017\\_elephant\\_texts.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/10/081017_elephant_texts.shtml)